

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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EXDIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, TH

SUBJ: U.S. RESIDUAL FORCES IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 5688

1. EMBASSY WAS CALLED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY THIS AFTERNOON (MARCH 13) AND INFORMED AMBASSADOR HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI AT 1600 HOURS MONDAY AFTERNOON (MARCH 15).

2. CONCURRENTLY EVENING PAPER, THE WORLD, CARRIES LEAD ARTICLE WHICH DESCRIBES MEETING PRIME MINISTER HELD WITH NSCT THIS MORNING. KEY PORTION IS AS FOLLOWS.

BEGIN TEXT

A. HE TOLD THE STUDENTS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO COMPLY TO ALL SEVEN CONDITIONS ALREADY STIPULATED BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT, ALL RELATED TO THE MAIN POINT THAT ALL U.S. MILITARY ADVISORS WILL BE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THAI LAW, IN ORDER FOR U.S. ADVISORS TO REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY AFTER NEXT SATURDAY.

B. "THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS TO ACCEPT ALL THE SEVEN POINTS,
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OTHERWISE WE ARE SORRY BUT WE WILL TELL THEM THAT WE CANNOT

ALLOW THEM TO REMAIN HERE ANY LONGER" SAID THE PRIME MINISTER.

C. THE ALSO TOLD THE STUDENTS THAT THE U.S. AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE TO REPLY TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S CONDITIONS BEFORE MARCH 20 OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THIS MATTER AND HE SAID ONLY THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE U.S. AUTHORITIES.

D. " ANY DISCUSSION ON THIS MATTER WILL BE CONDUCTED SOLELY BY THE THAI FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY AND THERE WILL NOT BE ANY INVOLVEMENT OF THE SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS," THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE STUDENTS.

E. ASKED WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO IF THE UNITED STATES FAILS TO COMPLY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CONDITIONS AND SOME OF ITS SOLDIERS REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY AFTER MARCH 20, M.R. KHUKRIT SAID THAT HE DIDN'T THINK THE UNITED STATES WOULD DO SUCH A THING.

F. " IF IT HAPPENED,I WOULD MAKE A STRONG PROTEST TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC PROCESS BECAUSE IT WOULD BE A MAJOR VIOLATION OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY," SAID THE PRIME MINISTER....

G. M.R. KHUKRIT ALSO TOLD THE STUDENT LEADERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT THE FACILITIES AT RAMASUN CAMP SINCE THE ELECTRONIC INSTALLATIONS AT THE CAMP WERE BEING LEASED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FROM PRIVATE ENTERPRISES AT A VERY EXPENSIVE RATE AND THE THAI GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BEAR THE COST. " I WANT THE EQUIPMENT TO BE TAKEN OUT ONCE THE CAMP IS TURNED OVER TO THAILAND."

H. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO ASSURED THE STUDENTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE CONTROL OF ALL BASES IN THAILAND AFTER MARCH 20 AS IT WAS THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO ALLOW ANYONE TO INTERFERE WITH OR SPY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

I. REFERRING TO THE DIFFERENT OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY HIGH RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS OVER THE PRESENCE OF U.S. SOLDIERS
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IN THAILAND, M.R. KHUKRIT SAID THAT HE, AS THE PRIME MINISTER, WAS THE ONLY PERSON AUTHORIZED TO DIRECT GOVERNMENT POLICY SO THAT HIS OPINION SHOULD BE DEFINITE.

END TEXT.

3. EMBASSY HAS CHECKED WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH HAS CONFIRMED THAT MEETING WITH CHATCHAI HAS BEEN LAID ON FOR 1600 HOURS

MONDAY QUOTE AS FIRST STEP UNQUOTE. AFTER ALL THE CHURNING AROUND THERE HAS BEEN SINCE THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS WERE RECEIVED, WE ARE SURE THIS PROCEDURE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY KHUKRIT.

4. AS SCENARIO ENVIAGED BY DEPARTMENT DOES NOT SEEM TO BE COMING OFF, RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE POINTS TO CHATCHAI WHICH WE WERE DIRECTED TO MAKE TO PRIME MINISTER.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT WILL BE STONE-WALLED BY CHATCHAI AND ANAN ON THE HIATUS QUESTION AT SUCH A MEETING. IF THIS PROVES TO BE THE CASE WILL SAY WE HAVE TO REQUEST FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

6. DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER AUTHORIZING US TO USE FALLBACKS ONE AND TWO TO POINT SIX AT THIS MEETING. THIS MIGHT SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE, IF NOT THE THAI, HAVE GONE TO SOME LENGTHS TO BE REASONABLE IN THIS AFFAIR. CONCURRENTLY WE MIGHT SMOKE OUT WHAT RESIDUAL ACTIVITIES THE THAI ARE PREPARED TO APPROVE.
WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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